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## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**August 20, 2003**

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# **TUCSON DEVELOPERS CONVICTED OF DAMAGING PUBLIC LANDS AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES**

**TUCSON, ARIZONA** – The United States Attorney's Office for the District of Arizona, announces today that on August 18, 2003, Timothy J. Blowers (DOB: 1/25/52) of Tucson, Arizona and Lane Holmes (DOB: 1/18/62) of Las Vegas, Nevada were found guilty of conspiracy, damaging public lands, trespass, cutting trees down on public lands, and damaging archeological resources. Mr. Blowers was convicted on 15 counts and Mr. Holmes was convicted on 7 counts.

The defendants were indicted by a Tucson federal grand jury in a 37 count indictment on February 3, 2000. Both defendants are land developers. Timothy Blowers is associated with Flying Diamonds L.L.C. and Lane Holmes is an owner of Prosperity Mine Road L.L.C. The evidence at trial showed that in 1996 and 1997 they purchased and/or controlled several hundred acres of undeveloped land in Sahuarita, Arizona, about 25 miles south of Tucson for residential development. Superior access to their land lay across undeveloped desert habitat owned by the United States and managed by the Bureau of Land Management. Beginning in May, 1997 and continuing to March, 1998, the defendants procured road graders to substantially widen existing primitive two track roads and to cut new roads in order to improve property

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buyers' access to their lands. The defendants damaged approximately seven miles of roads. Damage to mesquite and palo verde trees, ocotillo, and a variety of cactus exceeded \$400,000.00. They also cut through a documented prehistoric 13<sup>th</sup> century Hohokam Indian site known as Indian Kitchen. This site contained thirty three mortar holes cut into the rock used by the Hohokam to grind mesquite beans, corn and other food sources grown in nearby agricultural fields. Two manos used as the grinding tool with the mortars emerged this past January from the two track road which had been lowered and excavated during the trespass. Numerous pottery shards were also recovered from road berms created by the trespass.

The case was tried before United States District Judge John M. Roll from July 28, 2003 to August 18, 2003.

A conviction for damaging government property carries a maximum penalty of ten years in prison and a \$250,000.00 fine; damaging archeological resources carries a maximum penalty of two years in prison and a \$20,000.00 fine; trespass and cutting trees on United States lands both carry a maximum penalty of one year in prison and a \$1,000.00 and \$10,000.00 fine respectively.

Sentencing is set before Judge Roll on November 13, 2003 at 8:30 a.m.

The case was tried by Assistant U.S. Attorney Wallace H. Kleindienst. BLM Special Agent Monte Montijo assisted the U.S. Attorney's Office in the investigation and prosecution of the defendants.

CASE NUMBER: CR-00-161-TUC-JMR  
RELEASE NUMBER: 2003-148

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